

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

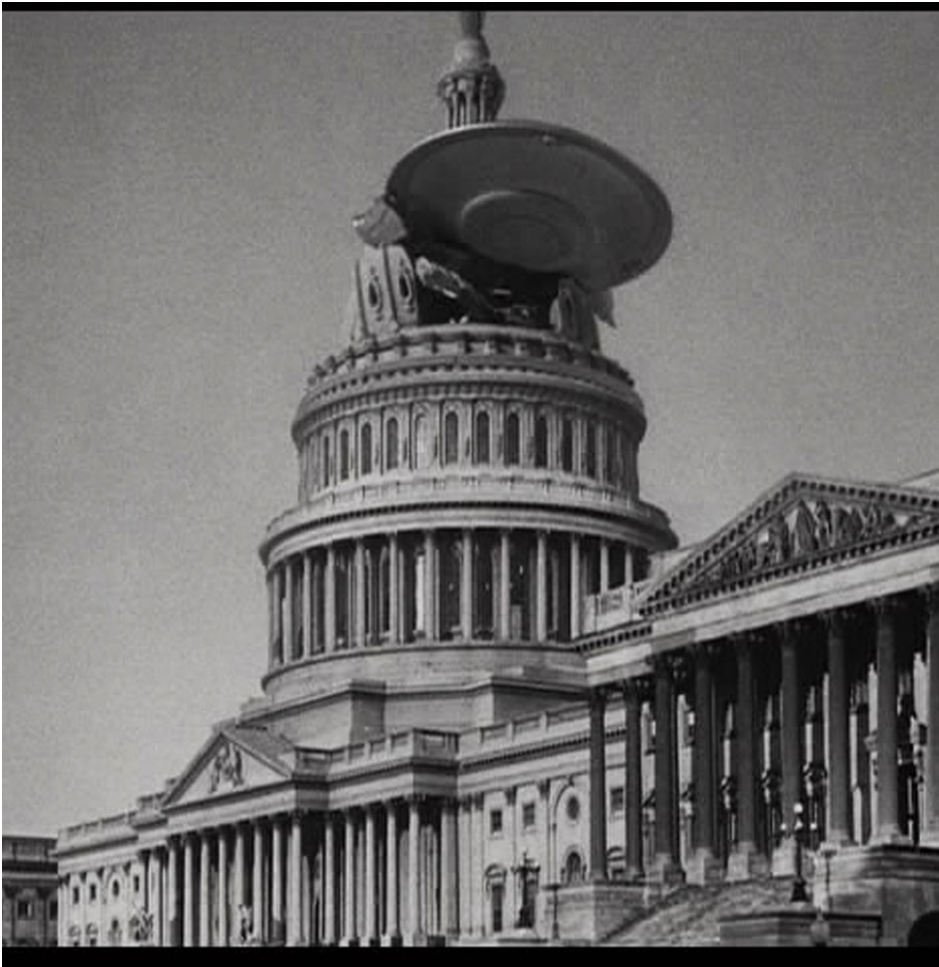


He stated that it was about the color of the moon "A yellowish radiant color" and had a flat top , parallel to the horizon and a spherical bottom.

UFO report filed with project Blue Book unknown case #3427

Volume 5 Number 4

July-August 2013



Front cover: A photograph of the rising moon peaking through some clouds. This was the probable source of a Project Blue Book Unknown. See page 19

Left: Special effects legend Ray Harryhausen died in May. His iconic flying saucer crashing into the capitol building was the highlight of the movie, "Earth vs. the flying saucers". I believe Dick French claims to have debunked this UFO case as well as hundreds of others.

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Another UFO promotional gimmick flops

The image above is what the Citizen's hearing on UFO disclosure would like to happen in order to prove that UFOs are alien spaceships. Unfortunately, UFOs don't crash in highly populated areas. Instead, the myriad of witnesses and UFO experts paraded in front of former congress people really did not produce much of a stir outside the UFO community. While UFO aficionados cheered from the sidelines at Bassett's dog and pony show, outsiders pretty much saw it for what it was. I doubt if anybody outside UFOlogy could recall who Steve Bassett (or anybody else who spoke) was a month later. The scientific community seemed unimpressed as I am unaware of any shift in scientific opinion about the subject. When didn't Bassett spend the money in a way that would convince scientists to investigate UFOs?

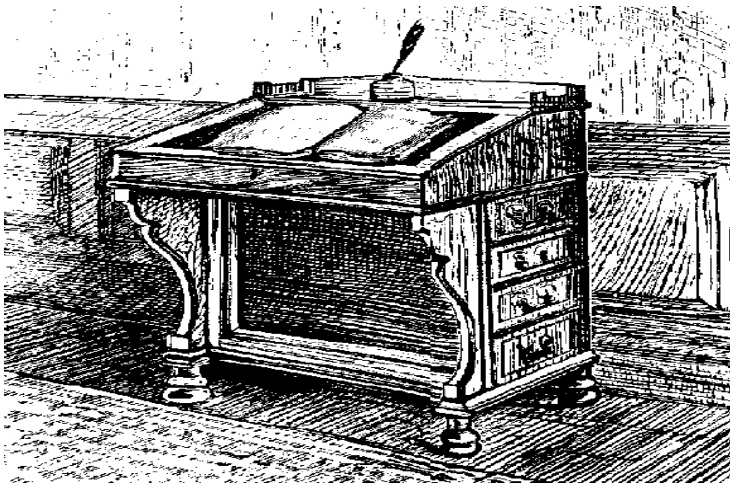
Meanwhile, the rest of UFOlogy plodded along trying to find the "smoking gun" that will prove what they believe. The "Roswell geologist photographs" continue to be promoted by Rich Reynolds as something special. While he has an "inside source", the rest of us will have to wait until it appears as part of a special on the Syfy channel or some other cable network.

Just before publication, I became aware that the final bit of UK UFO files have been released. Dr. David Clarke posted his usual video summary on line. It appears that the only invasion of UFOs that happened in the UK over the past decade were of the Chinese lantern type. Nick Pope, in response, would refer to Dr. Clarke as a "folklore buff who's interested in fairies and goblins". His labeling of Dr. Clarke as a "useful idiot" was meant to imply he was a mindless parrot for the government and that the real UFO files reside somewhere hidden from public view. How long have we been hearing that same excuse by UFOlogists? They have had the ability to prove their case for decades and still have been unable to convince anybody outside their community that UFOs are alien spaceships. Until that happens, it is the people like Nick Pope who will appear to those outside the UFO world as a "buff", a "nut", or "an idiot".

CORRECTION FOR LAST ISSUE: In the article about the UFO sighting of March 4, 1960, I had posted a photograph of, what I thought were, two B-52's in formation. I had received an e-mail stating they were not B-52s but, instead, were B-47s. I was horrified by such a simple mistake. Examination of the photographs and their source revealed they were not B-47s. However, they were also not the B-52 design that one normally sees in photographs. They were the X and YB-52 test aircraft in formation.

Who's blogging UFOs?

Hot topics and varied opinions



A new blog with the title UFO DNA has been introduced. One of the entries involved the Heflin photographs. They were shown to be fakes based on taking the images and creating a stereoscopic photograph. This was revealed over a year ago by Robert Sheaffer. Still, I like the style of the blog and it will be interesting to see how long it lasts.

UFO DNA also took a look at the Chiles-Whitted sighting. They declared it an earth grazing meteor but calculated the altitude as low as 16 miles. For a meteor to reach that low an altitude and still be visible indicates it probably was not an earth grazer. In my opinion, the interpretation of the reports is the problem with these calculations. The author has made precise measurements based on approximations. If there were errors in observation, the path would have been different and the altitude could have been higher. I am of the opinion that this was a fireball but calculating a precise trajectory based on these reports is almost impossible to do. Despite this issue

not being considered, I still applaud the effort.

Speaking of things burning up in the Earth's atmosphere, a recent UFO event in Argentina and Chile on May 5th seems to have been the result of space debris. Some of the Youtube comments were interesting. Once again, the "airship effect" was evident in those interpreting the video images with some claiming to see the outline of a craft behind the lights! Ted Molczan quickly identified the event as the Cygnus mass simulator, launched by an Antares rocket in April. When will UFO aficionados ever learn these lessons?

There were reports of a near-miss between a plane and a UFO in Scotland on April 30th. The pilots noted that the color was blue and yellow and they sped right past it. This indicated the object was probably nearly stationary. The air crew added that it was too big for a balloon. The culprit apparently was a helium shark balloon that the owner lost control of and it wandered into the traffic pattern. Good job to "Openminds" author Jason McClellan for publishing the information.

MUFON's Roger Marsh is trying to link two UFO sightings 1200 miles and two hours apart on the 27th of April! The first witness in Tennessee describes a large triangular object hovering over power lines for about 10 seconds close to 10 PM EDT. The second witness saw a UFO traverse the sky in a straight line in two seconds from Colorado around 10 PM MDT! The witness added that it was hard to reference size but it was very far away, which means it must have been very large for him to see it. I am not so certain about the Tennessee sighting but the Colorado sighting sounded like a bright meteor. Sure enough, the American Meteor Society has a bright fireball being seen from Colorado at 21:46 MDT on the night of the 27th (event #941 for 2013). More stellar work by MUFON's finest.

Was the ISS described as a "blimp on fire"? That is what the witnesses stated it appeared to be like at 11:09 PM from Mexico, Indiana. By posting it on his blog, MUFON's Roger Marsh seemed to think this was a significant case but, after a quick check of Heaven's above, it appears the probable explanation is the International Space Station (ISS). The ISS was prominently visible passing from WSW to NE between 11:08 and 11:15 PM around magnitude -2.8. Did the witnesses simply misperceive the ISS or did they really see a "blimp on fire" UFO moving across the sky in a straight line at the same time the ISS was visible? John Craig would make this very same identification in the comments section of Marsh's blog. The ISS produced many UFO reports throughout June as it made prominent passes over North America during evening hours when people were outside watching the sky. Another ISS sighting, which appeared in Marsh's blog, came from Bangor, Maine.

Daryl Pederson took a spectacular photograph of a Parahelic circle. What does this have to do with UFOs? Well, I was always struck by the old woodcuts that UFOlogists try to promote as evidence for UFOs visiting the earth in the past. The most popular one was the 1561 Nuremburg event. I realize that there are some stories associated with the woodcut describing a "battle" of some kind but can one really trust such accounts as being accurate observations of what really happened? I am of the opinion that what these people saw were some form of meteorological optics than a battle between alien spaceships. Pederson's photograph shows how truly strange such conditions can make the sky appear.

Chris Rutkowski posted the results of his 2012 UFO survey for Canada. Interesting to note is that the average UFO sighting lasted 15 minutes. Despite this incredible amount of time being available, nobody was able to produce any videos/photographs showing something exotic. Perhaps the statistic showing the time of day for most UFO sightings explains the first problem. About 1200 of the 1981 reports occurred between 9 PM and 6 AM. That is roughly 60% of the sightings occur when the sun is not up. It is hard to record such events with low lighting. Check out page 15, where I "help" identify a couple of unidentifieds for our Canadian

Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

neighbors.

Ted Molczan has struck again and produced a comprehensive list of space debris re-entries since the dawn of the space age.

A lot of these cases have produced UFO reports over the years. Ted deserves a lot of credit for the hard work he put into this list. It can be a valuable resource for identifying old UFO cases. I noticed that one of the re-entries for September 16 (15 local time), 1960 was recorded in The UFO evidence as a UFO sighting seen by a Venezuelan Engineering professor. Dominique Weinstein's list also has, by my count, twelve of these re-entries listed as pilot encounters with UFOs. We can probably start crossing some of these cases off the "unidentifieds" list.

Robert Salas was complaining about congressman Peter King implying he was a nut. Clearly, Salas has a reading comprehension problem. When asked about the Salas claim that he was in contact with his office, King said, *"I have no idea what the guy is talking about. We are always getting crazy stuff in the mail by people whose brain has been taken over by aliens or something."* King was not stating that Salas claimed his brain was taken over by aliens. He was making a general statement about some of the kinds of calls his office received. A congressman is bombarded with all sorts of requests and claims. Salas supposedly sent documents to his office but King either ignored them or found them less than compelling and forgot about them. Because of his statement, Salas accused King of being part of the cover-up. He stated that King had taken an oath to the Constitution and should uphold it. I find that amusing because Salas also took an oath. In my opinion, he is guilty of violating it for his own personal gain. He has used his former rank to promote a story that is not supported by any real documentation. The Echo flight officers, Walt Figel and Eric Carlson, have both essentially stated that Salas' Oscar flight story is nothing but a fiction. Maybe Salas should look in the mirror sometime before he starts to imply people are trying to purposefully cover-up the truth about UFOs.

Anthony Bragalia took time off from his Roswell pursuits to note that the US Navy is monitoring UFO web sites. He remarked that the mysterious Navy Network Information Center (NNIC) appears highly interested in UFO stories. It seems that he is overstating his case. It is not only UFO web sites that are being read. Others have noted that the Navy has been reading their blogs and web sites. The blogger of one site noted that all internet traffic by Navy commands went through the NNIC. If true, this means that anybody using a navy computer (from seaman recruit to Admiral) is going to appear as NNIC. I recall that the sub tender in Guam used to have some computers set up for anybody to use so they could check personal e-mail or surf the web. After 60 days at sea, I remember checking up on what was happening in the UFO world. The computer did not blow up and I was not asked why I was looking at UFO related material. A likely scenario is that various individuals at these navy computers are simply web surfing on their free time. Some of these computers may be attached to the local base library, where the computers are freely available to all. People in the navy (or any other branch of the military) have a myriad of interests, which includes the subject of UFOs. I wonder how often NNIC visits pornography web sites? For a conspiracy theorist like Bragalia, this means something. I am one to accept the more mundane explanation without more convincing evidence.

Last issue, I mentioned that there are no known cases of UFOs crashing with aircraft. I should have been clear on what I meant to be a UFO. What I meant to say were UFOs that are classified as "intelligently controlled craft". Anything unidentified that is in the air can accidentally meet up with an aircraft. The recent apparent collision of a Chinese airliner with an "unidentified" fueled all sorts of speculation by UFO buffs. What is important to point out is that nobody, including the pilots, seem to know what caused the dent in the plane. If it were an actual craft of some kind, the pilots probably would have seen it. However, if it were something small, it might have gone unnoticed. Another possibility I mentioned to one reader was that it could have been an implosion of the nose cone of the aircraft. If there was a differential pressure that formed across the nose of the aircraft, it would crumple. I saw something similar in the early 1990s with a submarine. The nose of a submarine is a sonar dome that is a free-flood compartment that is at sea pressure. Somebody on the crew had accidentally painted over some of the holes that allowed the dome to be flooded. When the submarine dove, the sea pressure caused the dome to collapse. I recall walking by the submarine and observing the big dent on the dome. It looked similar to the nose of this airplane on a larger scale. Is it possible that a differential pressure formed across the nose of the aircraft and produced the damage? I have no idea but it is a possibility to consider. While UFO buffs can speculate, I am sure there is probably a more reasonable explanation for the damage.

MUFON's Marc D'Antonio appeared on the Graelian report podcast and described a special detector that MUFON is working on with a special effects expert. He is referring to Doug Trumbull, who I briefly mentioned in SUNlite 2-6's "Who's blogging" section. I found D'Antonio's description of the project ambitious to say the least. He described having all sorts of radiation detectors, photographic equipment, software for identification, and sensors that must cost a lot of money. At one point he mentioned that they had one specific detector they were designing that could determine if UFOs were using "string theory principles" for propulsion. D'Antonio described a system of these detectors numbering in the hundreds or thousands! The whole goal is to actually detect a UFO that is an actual alien spaceship. I wish MUFON a lot of luck in getting funding for this effort because he appears to be describing something that must cost well over \$10,000 for each unit. In his open minds interview, he implied that they are still in the prototype stage. I will be interested if they plan on making all the data available real-time the way NASA has their all sky fireball network. I wish him luck on this project but I don't see it actually happening anytime soon.

The Roswell Corner

A lot of smoke but no fire

The UFO Iconoclasts blog has been full of rumors and guesses about “new Roswell evidence”. Apparently, Rich Reynolds has been fed a lot of information from “reliable sources” inside, or associated with, the dream team. There are rumors of people signing non-disclosure agreements. If this is so, somebody in the group does not seem to consider their integrity worth much if they are leaking out the information. Kevin Randle responded on the blog that there are no non-disclosure agreements and there isn’t any earth shattering evidence found, as of yet. As the rumors and comments on the blog entry swelled, Reynolds chose to remove it and substituting it with another entry. The next day, Reynolds put up an entry with the title “We will be back soon”, which also quickly disappeared. This reminded me of the SNL skit, Jingleheimer Junction. Jingleheimer Joe (Tim Meadows) had to stop his cast from spelling out an unpleasant word by tackling Freddy Friendship (Will Ferrell), who had an “F” on his shirt. Every time the word was about to be spelled out, a sign would appear that the show was having “technical difficulties”.



Being unable to control himself, Reynolds made another attempt to link Aztec and Roswell with the “new evidence”. In this posting, he again made reference to the “geologist photos”, which supposedly show aliens, alien bodies, or some sort of army operation. Supposedly, the unnamed geologist worked for Silas Newton and was in Roswell in July of 1947. This mystery man showed the photographs to Newton but, for some unknown reason, they chose not to publish them. Reynolds even suggested, in UFOlogical conspiracist fashion, that the USAF (why not MJ-12 or some other super secret organization?) influenced Newton to make up the Aztec story in order to deflect attention from Roswell! One would think that, in order to reinforce the story Newton was telling, the photographs would have been part of the presentation. Instead, the photographs were squirreled away for over sixty years and now have suddenly materialized. Reynolds also repeated the claim that these photographs were being shopped around. Within a few hours, Reynolds had technical difficulties with his blog again and removed this comment. Apparently, his source coerced him to remove this passage. Does this mean they are not being shopped about or does this mean that the source(s) do not want everyone to know that they are doing so?

Only time will tell but I have seen this little game played out before. A red flag really has to be the association of the photographs with Silas Newton and that they have never surfaced until now. When the photographs are finally presented for evaluation, people can then draw their own conclusions. My guess is that a few “experts” from UFOlogy will declare them authentic but they will not be allowed to be evaluated by experts independent of UFOlogy. Meanwhile, Reynolds should stop his little game of luring people to his blog with sensationalist claims unless he is committed to revealing everything he knows and his source.

As I said in previous issues, the information should never have been mentioned/leaked until it was ready for presentation. Apparently, a member of the dream team (or somebody close to them), leaked out the information because they could not control their enthusiasm about what they found and what they think it means. I also find it interesting that the photographs were not presented at the “citizen’s hearing” when the opportunity was there to make a “splash” for the public. There must be something about them that makes some members of the “dream team” concerned about their authenticity.

The \$600,000 flying saucer fizzle

Washington D. C. has had plenty of crazy publicity stunts over the years but the recent “fake hearing” on UFOs took the cake. In my opinion this little circus can be considered a monumental waste of money and time. Luckily, this did not involve wasting the tax payers money. It simply involved Steve Basset conning some gullible rich guy out of his money to throw a glorified UFO conference.

The “Citizen’s hearing on UFO disclosure” was not really an official government hearing. Unable to convince congress to conduct an actual UFO hearing, the national press club was rented out and a parade of UFO personalities were trotted in front of the camera. In order to give the impression of a bona fide inquiry, where the evidence would be critically examined, several retired congress people were paid to attend and listen to the many one-sided presentations. Because they were paid to listen to this by those presenting the evidence, one has to question the integrity of these proceedings. Did one expect these paid ex-government officials to really bite the hand that was feeding them?

Roswell witnesses to bodies in 1947

Kevin Randle seemed to think that he was severely questioned by ex-congressman Merrill Cook.¹ According to Randle, Cook asked him several times if anybody had mentioned alien bodies in 1947. Randle could not think of anybody at the hearing but would later realize that Frankie Rowe’s father had done so to his family/daughter. According to Randle, this is evidence that people mentioned bodies in 1947. What he forgets is this is hearsay and would have been identified as such by any good lawyer. Rowe did not tell this story until the 1990s. That is hardly 1947. In all the Roswell collections of stories, there is not one solid piece of evidence from 1947 that people saw alien bodies or an actual spaceship. There are no letters, diaries, or documents written in 1947 that crashologists have presented. Instead, they resort to hearsay and highly suspect stories that can not be verified. Ignored are the statements made by Jesse Marcel Sr., where he denied there were any alien bodies. If any alien bodies were found, one would think he would have remembered such a detail and told investigators for the record.



Aliens are lured to technology

Stanton Friedman and others gave the impression that the Roswell aliens came to New Mexico because that was where the first atomic bomb was exploded. Unfortunately, the aliens were two years too late and did not appear to be interested in monitoring the Bikini bomb tests in 1946. They also failed to show up at Enewetak in early 1948 for operation Sandstone. Friedman took this theory a step further by suggesting the aliens were interested in our “modern” technology:

Atomic bombs, powerful rockets used to kill....and powerful radar, the beginning of the electronics revolution. The only place in the world in July 1947, where you could check out all three of those was southeastern New Mexico, which is where Roswell is.....²

Friedman needs to get his facts straight. There were no atomic weapons in Roswell or southeastern New Mexico in 1947. The only atomic bombs in the US inventory were located in NORTH CENTRAL New Mexico. They were in secure areas and not being tested in 1947. The rockets being fired at White Sands in SOUTH CENTRAL New Mexico were not loaded with any warheads and were not being used to kill anything. Meanwhile, there were no “powerful” radars in SOUTH EAST New Mexico. The only radars were at White

Sands and they were not all that powerful compared to the AN/CPS-5 air search radars in Washington and California. Of course, one has to wonder why the aliens would be interested in archaic (to the aliens) technology such as fission (not fusion) weapons, chemical rockets, and electron tube technology.

In another interview, during the hearing, Friedman made it clear what he believes when he stated, *we are a threat to the neighborhood.....*³ The last time I checked, the best we (the human race as a whole), is put men on the moon. We have not put a human being outside low Earth orbit for over forty years! Sure, we have unmanned probes that are near the edge of our solar system but those probes were launched over thirty years ago. If the aliens really felt we were a threat, they would have erased that threat long ago. They also would not endanger their craft if we were so dangerous. They could easily evaluate our technology from low earth orbit the same way our modern spy satellites perform such tasks. Why give the earth a present of their technology due to a piloting error? Through reverse engineering, the earth people could then actually threaten the galaxy with our war-like ways. As usual, Friedman is more smoke than fire. Perhaps it is more hot air than smoke.



The Rendlesham lawsuit⁴

The saga of Penniston and Burroughs over recent years has taken on the atmosphere of a carnival. Penniston has been the leader of the two and has done everything from changing the location of the landing site (at least twice) to suddenly producing a binary code that he had supposedly written in his notebook a short time after his "encounter". Using the heroic label of "first responders", the two men are suing the Veteran's administration for injuries they sustained in the line of duty and not being able to obtain their records. According to Penniston and Burroughs, the government knew of the dangers of them being exposed to the UFO. If that is the case, isn't Colonel Halt guilty of not taking care of his men? They were under his command and he was responsible for their welfare.

If this does go to court, I wonder how Penniston and Burroughs (according to the statements by Burroughs and Cabansag) will explain how they chased a lighthouse. This is something they deny happened. Either they are lying now or they were lying back in 1980. Any good lawyer would destroy their testimony.

As for being unable to obtain their medical records, I am not sure what they are talking about. Back when I was in the Navy, I had numerous chances to make copies of my medical record. If they were concerned about their health while they were on active duty, they could easily have made copies. Are we led to believe that only recently, they decided their health problems are associated with the incident in question?

Mr X⁵

This was another one of those surprises meant to impress people with something new. Richard Dolan, who seems to be more gullible every day, interviewed this old man, who told all sorts of wild stories that were hard to believe. According to Dolan, he is a former CIA official but provided not one iota of evidence that the man was who he claimed to be. He made claims, which included:



1. Learning about project Blue Book being aware of alien Greys and Roswell.
2. He indicated that MJ-12 was real
3. Eisenhower threatened to invade Area 51 with the army.
4. He had, on a 3X5 card, the secret to reversing gravity!
5. He was threatened never to reveal any information but still chose to reveal his face in this interview! Wouldn't his appearance to those who knew him make it easy for them to carry out their threats to him and his family?

While people can cheer his courage, I seriously doubt that any such threats were ever made and they are just part of this gentleman's effort to make his story acceptable to conspiracy theorists. Maybe it would be more convincing if we had actual evidence showing that he was who he claimed to be. This gentleman may have possibly worked for the CIA or intelligence service at some point but his stories are so exaggerated they are almost impossible to believe without some proof. In my skeptical opinion, he is some old guy, who wanted some attention. All one has to do is read a few UFO books or internet web sites and one can easily come up with the same stories.

Missile madness

Robert Salas appeared to impress the ex-congress people.⁶ He whined about the fact that there is no evidence for his Oscar flight shutdown and blames the government for the cover-up. He fails to mention the fact that the Echo flight, which is documented, had a reasonable explanation offered as noted by Tim Hebert.⁷ Meanwhile, both Eric Carlson and Walt Figel of Echo flight have publicly stated that the Oscar flight shutdown probably never happened because they would have been aware of it. Had UFOs been able to knock missiles off alert as claimed, the USAF would have gone crazy trying to develop a countermeasure. How would they know it wasn't the Soviet Union testing a new weapon in order to conduct a sneak attack? Instead, the USAF focused on combatting internally generated electrical noise pulses that could shutdown critical components.⁸ Apparently, they considered electrical noise pulses a greater threat than alien spaceships.

Spewing swamp gas for UFOlogists

Let. Col. Richard French is another retired AF officer, who has been making the rounds of UFO circles for the past few years. He has made quite a few wild claims that don't seem to be truthful. Last year French stated that one of the two crashing UFOs at Roswell was shot down by a fighter using an "electromagnetic pulse" weapon.⁹ This "electromagnetic pulse" weapon seems to have disappeared from the USAF inventory of weapons as it would have been extremely useful in Korea and Vietnam. He also has claimed to be an investigator for Project Blue Book (in one interview he stated he was "one of the authors of Blue Book"!) for 12 to 13 years. However, French's name does not appear in any of the Blue Book files while other investigators appear quite frequently. According to French, he used all sorts of made up answers to explain away these UFO reports he investigated for twelve years. In the hearing, he described a 1952 incident he investigated in St. John's Newfoundland.¹⁰ There he saw two submerged UFOs, with one repairing the other. This all sounds a lot like the rumors told in the Shag Harbor UFO case. There is no reference to any such incident in



the Blue Book files in 1952. French added that he was able to watch UFOs flying over Gulf Breeze, which he also explained away as swamp gas.¹¹ Again, there are no records of such events with, or without, fictitious explanations. The only Gulf Breeze UFO report was filed in October 1967 (French stated there were UFO reports occurring about three times a week) and it was classified as a balloon. Even more astounding is that French stated in a different interview that he was in Korea in 1952! In that interview, he stated he was present at the Kije-do riots.¹² The riots occurred in early 1952. How could French have served in Korea interrogating POWs and been at Kije-do while investigating UFOs in the United States around the same time?

Not satisfied with being on two sides of the world during the same time period, French then states he volunteered for Pilot training. After pilot school he was able to get into the Korean War as an F-86 pilot with the 25th fighter squadron in 1954.¹³ There he got a chance to be John Glenn's wing man! One major problem with this story is the Korean war ended in July of 1953 and not in 1954. It seems unlikely that French could have transferred out of his ground unit in 1952, complete pilot training (while still investigating UFOs), and be able to return to Korea in time to fly with John Glenn. The photographs being displayed of French as a pilot shows him as a captain in the 8th tactical fighter squadron (the black sheep patch on his uniform).¹⁴ They never flew F-86s but did fly the F-100s (which is the only plane I have seen him pictured with) between 1957 and 1962.

If French investigated UFOs for a dozen years, his role as a UFO investigator was between 1952 and 1964 or 65. How could he spend time investigating and debunking UFO cases if he was flying jets at the same time? At best, he was probably the command's UFO officer, which only investigated UFOs reported by his command. French's contact with UFOs did not end after this period because he also provided a written statement to the CHD, which stated that in the late 1960s, he had gone to Holloman AFB for his annual altitude chamber training. While there, he observed a fighter take off and shoot down a UFO with a simple rocket!¹⁵ What happened to the electromagnetic pulse weapon that was available in 1947? The UFO crashed and, not surprisingly, French was allowed to view the wreckage but not the bodies. Like so many tall story tellers, French can't control himself. The stories just get crazier and crazier. There is not one iota of evidence to support his claims but he was presented as a credible source to the public!

I have no doubt that French flew jets during his career but a lot of his interviews take on an air of exaggeration. He appears to have snagged bits and pieces of cases he read about (Roswell, Shag Harbor, Gulf Breeze, Milton Torres, etc.) and then crafted his stories from them. French admitted he served as part of the 6004th AISS, which investigated UFO reports in the far east as well as interrogated POWs in Korea. However, his story about investigating UFO reports in the United States during this same time period appears to be false. After his tour with the 6004th, French probably went to pilot school.



A Lt. Col. Richard French did serve as the commander of the 25th fighter squadron in September of 1971. Assuming that he was the same person, it verifies his claim of combat experience. Maybe if French made his military service record available to verify the rest of his stories, he would appear more credible. As of this point, he is just another individual, who likes to tell stories that sound too good to be true. He appears to be the 2013 version of Frank Kaufmann.

One wonders why retired AF Colonel Woodard (left) was not asked to speak to the former congress people. Are his stories any less credible than Lt. Col. Richard French's?

Let's all go to the UN!

After the hearing was over, Steve Bassett would announce that he was going to take his efforts towards disclosure to the United Nations.¹⁶ He proposed a world conference that would evaluate the evidence of alien visitation. Four of the six paid former congress people endorsed his proposal. This trick had been tried before back in the 1970s, when the small island of Granada chose to endorse such investigations. When the 148 nation body voted on the proposal, only two nations voted for it. Granada and Uganda (which was ruled by Idi Amin Dada at the time). I suspect that Bassett will find a similar cold reception in the United Nations. One wonders why Bassett does not attempt to present his evidence in a scientific forum, where he can motivate scientists to study UFOs. The answer is obvious. Bassett is a publicity hound and knows he would fail in a scientific setting. That is not the kind of publicity he wants. It is best to big a big fish in a little pond than to venture into the ocean and discover you are not so big after all and become somebody's dinner.

Report Card

According to the Citizen Hearing on Disclosure (CHD) web site (this section no longer appears on their site):

There were six strategic goals for the CHD: 1) undermine the White House OSTP statement of November 4, 2011 regarding the complete absence of evidence for an extraterrestrial presence or the withholding of relevant information by the government; 2) prompt the U. S. Congress to hold its first hearings on the subject since 1968; 3) motivate the mainstream political media to begin appropriate investigative coverage of the subject; 4) inform the executive branch it risks not being the first nation to Disclose an ET presence; 5) increase awareness of the Disclosure movement around the world; and 6) add a UN initiative to the advocacy matrix.¹⁷

Let's grade the CHD on its goals:

1. They did not provide one iota of verifiable evidence that aliens are visiting the earth. 🚩
2. They did not prompt congress to hold any hearings. 🚩
3. They did not motivate the media to the degree they desired. I have yet to see any significant news articles where the media has stopped what they were doing and began to investigate any of these cases. In my opinion, I don't think Bassett really wants the media to investigate their evidence. Many serious investigative journalists would discover that they were fed only one side of the story. They would then be referred to as "debunkers". 🚩
4. The executive branch seemed unconcerned that some third world country will reveal they have evidence of aliens. The reason for this is because they are probably telling the truth. They have no such evidence. The CHD failed to push the White House into any disclosure. 🚩
5. For about a week, they received press coverage. Not all of it was positive. However, a few weeks later, people around the world (outside the UFO community) probably had no idea who Stephen Bassett or these other individuals were. 🚩
6. The last goal seems to require a country from the United Nations to sponsor such an effort. This is a grade of "incomplete" since no country has stepped forward, as of yet, to push this kind of initiative. 🚩

Looking at the six strategic objectives, we discover that the CHD failed to really accomplish any of them. Is this what over a half-million dollars gets you? Is this mission accomplished?

Based on these results, one might think that Steve Bassett was a big loser but he wasn't. He got exactly what he wanted. Bassett received credibility and praise from the UFO community and got his name in the press. Those participating in the hearing also were "winners" for the same reason. They got to promote their ideas, research, and books. The real losers are those who paid money to Bassett's group to accomplish the task of exposing the UFO conspiracy. Despite an effort to surprise everyone with "new evidence" (mystery witnesses, wild stories, threats of lawsuits, etc.), this was nothing more than a glorified UFO conference/pep rally for UFOlogists. The only item of substance accomplished was listening to the sidelines chant, "GO TEAM UFO!!!!"

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UFOs/RELIGION

by Matt Graeber

I take pen in hand to fulfill a silent promise I made to you and myself to lead you from a 'provable illusion'.

I am now 71 years old, infirm, seeking no UFO following or fame. I have been studying the enigma for 39 years, have read countless books and met with many eyewitnesses and experts during my eight year stint as the Philadelphia-based UFO Report and Information Center's (UFORIC's) director 1972-1980.

As I said, I have read countless books on the topic but one classic stands out from the rest. It is not an easy read but its author was the famous Dr. Carl G. Jung. Jung was a well-read and brilliant man, heir apparent to Dr. Sigmund Freud unit parting ways with him over their conflicting views concerning the reality of psychic phenomena and potentially personal importance of religion. In Jung's closing years he wrote about UFO appearances in his book titled 'UFOs a Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Sky'. Despite the obvious title many experts still feel Dr. Jung was also a UFO believer.

While reading his book I asked the opinion of several experts; and, for the most part, they had not been impressed with his work. For Jung, like they, had 'seemingly put all his saucer-eggs into one basket, so-to-speak, concerning a global nuclear holocaust's 'fear' as an impetus for the rash of UFO observations - while the UFO experts were steadfastly postulating global visitations by alien creatures. However, Jung also spoke of 'Maximum Tensions', 'meaningful symbols', and things like 'visual rumors' such as those witnessed at Fatima and reportedly seen on the battlefield at Mons. Jung could not fully-explain why some people (nonpsychotics) see things that are not physically present, but he speculated that it may happen more often than one supposes, due to the fact that we seldom verify what we have seen with our own eyes.

In 1973 I would stumble upon a mental mechanism for Jung's ideas and in 1978 another appeared in the data collected. I wrote

about Dynamic Display (D.D.) and Dual Process of Perception (D.P.P.). Those articles may be viewed at several internet locations like SUNlite 2-2 and earlier in the Magonia Journal. But for now it suffices to simply say that D.D.s are 'triggered' into activity by the sudden perception of an external physical object of some kind; while D.P.P.s are internally generated (subconscious) productions' and may also explain a variety of other so called paranormal events.

After these were posted, I wrote the official UFORIC flying object research report. One lady reader was so impressed she wrote back exclaiming that the report was refreshing and very much like her own suspicions about the phenomenon:

UFO OBSERVATIONS

A down to earth talk about flying saucers

By Matt Graeber

From 1972 to 1980. I was the director of a small Philadelphia-based UFO report and information center acronymed U.F.O.R.I.C.

During my eight year stint, the group's investigators and I sought to discover trends or spikes in the data we collected from various sources such as Police Departments, Radio, TV stations, Newspapers, Technicians at the Franklin Institute's Fels Planetarium, Air Facilities, and the general public. Our inquiry involved a three-state area as well as a three-part investigative process involving long-term acquaintance with some of the witnesses. This was done to observe changes in personality. Since the UFO experience was said to be transformative to many observers. We did not observe this to be factual.

UFORIC started out as a "pro-UFO" organization. As "the research data produced no meaningful spikes or trends". It became increasingly clear that UFOs as visiting alien space ships were not being observed and reported. Of course, this finding goes against the grain of many UFO experts' statements. But, I have come to realize that "self-appointed expertise" is not a virtue. It's often a very subjective, delusional, and monetary-gain vice! However, that is a sad story for another time.

At the moment, we are discussing the obvious lack of trends in these data, which many experts find to be baffling and very mysterious, as they write their books on the so-called UFO enigma.

UFORIC often started its inquiries with a phone report and observation particulars mentioned by the observer(s) were noted and jotted down by the investigator(s). These particulars were later compared with the information stated in a written report form which was mailed to the observers and then filed by the observers. This was done to detect inconsistencies, embellishments, omissions, and/or exaggerations that did not appear in their earlier phone report and often gave us insights into the personality of the observer before we actually sat down and interviewed him or her. In some cases, like the Carbondale incident/hoax of 1974, the size and coloration of the object observed changed dramatically. While in other cases, the reports were quite consistent and felt to be truthful.

However, witness perceptive accuracy and subjectivity also were serious problems (e.g., sometimes, it was learned the witnesses did not have their glasses on at the time of their sighting experience and the object was often far too distant to be clearly identified, which meant the UFO description was often assumed, not actually seen).

Nocturnal Light Observations (NLOs) were particularly difficult to investigate and when the lights were red, white, and green in color and traveled in a straight line that corresponded to known flight paths of airliners, we generally thought them to be 'misidentifications' of conventional aircraft. Moreover, many NLOs were often not heard, which seemed reasonable considering their altitude and pronounced distance. This was one of the very few spikes found in some of our data and was not mysterious or baffling in character.

In 1980, UFORIC officially disbanded shortly after I had received a very nasty phone call from the New York City grand daddy of modern-day abduction lore. He was very angry with me because I failed to believe a man I considered to be a hoaxing witness who contended he had been abducted by aliens. The caller was utterly "off-the-wall" with his attitude and comments. I had not actually called the witness a hoaxter yet, but merely hesitated to peruse his report rigorously enough according to the abduction expert. Later experiences with other abductologists revealed a similar tendency toward arrogance mixed with delusional attitude.

Just last year, in my 36th year of being a UFOlogist (which is also a completely nonexistent and another self-appointed title for a totally subcultural hobby), I conducted a published interview with another abductee which appeared in Speculative Realms. She spoke of research mistreatment, psychological abuses, and medical misdiagnosis by a professor of American history-NOT a certified psychiatrist. I quickly realized as the interview progressed that my earlier fears concerning this growing and popular abduction phase of UFOlogy had been confirmed!

UFOlogy had been through many, many stages and phases over the years -Ancient Astronauts, the Bermuda Triangle, Portals, Star Gates, Openings at the top of the world, Nazi aircraft experimentation, and even Invisible UFOs colliding with airliners. But, abductology is by far the most deluded and dangerous hobby. Its practitioners are often not trained, or skilled in hypnosis, psychology, or psychiatry. Some actually "believe" they, too, have been abducted by little aliens from another world, and one fellow even offered his female abduction clients naked hot tub therapy.

So much for professional objectivity!

I shall not bore you to tears with UFORIC data, statistics, and graphs to prove my points that UFOs are not visiting alien space craft and that the continuing so-called baffling and mysterious 63-year-old enigma is a sham. With all the intensive researches and aggressive investigations taking place all over the planet by government scientists and amateurs alike, no one has ever presented one tiny piece

of incontrovertible evidence to prove their point. Since this is primarily a visual phenomenon, I would like to present these multigroup sketches of reported objects. Notice the wide variation and totally nonaerodynamic structures. They may travel through the vacuum of space, but once they enter earth's atmosphere they would burn and fall like rocks (barring of course, black-magical propulsion systems.... if you "believe" in such things). As a sixty-nine-year-old UFOlogist, I wanted to pass along (absolutely free of charge) what I have learned over the years. That is, before the great mother ship swoops down here for me. Yes, belief in UFOs is a matter of faith and desired entertainment, NOT science or common sense!

End the stagnation. It is time for new thinking, change, and responsibility to take hold of the enigma!

As one can see, there is very little reason to replace a spiritual/human Deity with techno-angels like little bulbous-headed aliens that are believed to be watching over us for some reason; or, prayed to by a group of UFO experts. It has been said that a religion starts dying from the instant it begins. Judaism and Christianity have been around for many centuries - how long do you think the saucer-faith will endure?



Allow me to quickly add that I do not consider all the experts to be charlatans and self-promoters; but, many are guilty of fraud, as others are simply deluded and obsessed with the romantic notion of flying saucer encounters. Yes, the obsession goes way back in time and I go back with it to the days of Keyhoe, Edwards, Jessup and other authors - which many of you may have heard of but never read. Ya know, 'debunker' is a strange UFOlogical word - one which immediately helps to conjure up negative mental images and thoughts of Phil Klass, Bob Todd and Karl Pflock.

But, I personally knew these men for many years and know they were not at all the villains that appear in the popular UFO literature. I would like to take a moment of your time to tell you the rest of the story.

Phil Klass became my UFOlogical rabbi or 'teacher' after I was appointed as 'in house skeptic' at UFORIC because the group members felt it best to keep our researches above the reproach of skeptics like Phil. As the years passed, and I studied Phil's investigative techniques, I learned of his early belief that UFOs were real and his utter disappointment with a writer whose work was woefully shoddy and embellished for entertainment effect. I LEARNED OF HOW PHIL WAS WRONGLY SMEARED AS A DEBUNKER for simply asking objective questions about so-called 'rock-solid' cases that were built upon ever-shifting sands. Phil once told me that he did not dislike UFO enthusiasts whom 'he felt were basically well-intended people who were being 'terribly misled'. He was a Civil War enthusiast and designed and helped construct the electronic topographical battlefield map currently on display at a Gettysburg Museum.

Phil had an earthy side too and once said "He'd believe anything Linda Cortile told him for one night ... if he were not already happily married." Phil loved his wife and their little dog. He was a teacher who taught by example and never

ridiculed my clumsy efforts with a case. However, he did inscribe his book on abduction to me with a simple 'Klassic' and highly economic six words ..."Matt Graeber, may you be spared." Yes, over 25 years ago Phil knew the abduction phase of UFOlogy was a sham and that the abductees were not receiving proper professional care. But, his sage warnings were ignored in saucerdom because he was labeled a debunker ...which when you think about what it really means is that there is some bunk to be exposed! But, whistle-blowing has always been a much exaggerated and one way street in saucerdom.

I worked with Karl T. Pflock when he was writing for 'Saucer Smear', the nation's oldest and still published UFO newsletter. Karl loved to co-author books and was often a ghost writer too. He was an ex-marine and ex-CIA employee. He was also A UFO BELIEVER and felt the Hill case was 100% genuine. We discussed the merits and short-comings of the "Fish" star map and other saucer matters as well. Karl had an infectious laugh and was a real 'Mench', for those of you who are familiar with the word. Just before Karl died, a popular bald-headed UFO author he was working with on a book betrayed him. Karl slipped away without much of a struggle with the author who twisted everything he said - in typical saucer expert style.

Robert G. Todd 'Bob' was skilled at obtaining government documents (some say he hacked them) and he focused on the Roswell mythos. Bob, like Phil, could be blunt and abrasive with his antagonists and, like Phil, his memory and character were often assailed by the self-appointed UFO experts. Bob had experienced his own UFO sighting and could not explain what it may have been. So, like Karl, he was a believer but drew a sharp line at the Roswell rumors he investigated. He established a newsletter called the 'Cow flop quarterly' in which he relentlessly exposed Roswell fantasy. Bob died much too young and objective UFOlogy lost a great and talented researcher. Bob had a fine sense of humor and we often shared many saucer jokes over the phone.

Phil, Karl and Bob were human beings with flaws and virtues but their flaws were far out-weighed by their virtues.

Now, we shall take a look at an apropos DVD that fell into my hands a couple years ago.

Doctor Jung wrote of 'A Changing of the Gods' in 1958 and I failed to fully understand him then - years later his sage words became clearer. No longer did I wonder where I had heard the abduction phrase 'don't be afraid' - it was borrowed from Judeo-Christian scripture - retailored to fit the modern day enigma.

Then, a wonderful DVD fell into my hands as I said above - it was originally intended as a cable TV show about ghosts - not another Roswell episode. It was about the search for the ghost of an alien at Roswell and never aired - as cable executives had rejected it. However, its message is yet to come. Each film participant's credentials in their respected disciplines - no BAs, MBAs or PhDs - were ever displayed.

However, the opening scene is that of a conference room with a group of experts seated around a table. There were two lady psychics; a native American spiritualist with an enormous brimmed cowboy hat; the bald-headed UFO author we briefly discussed above; a man with electronic gadgets that 'supposedly' detected ghosts; along with a very brief appearance by the filmmaker himself; and a discussion of their momentous plans.

After shots of them loading into a private jet - while aboard, and once the cowboy hat is thorough the plane's door - the bald UFOlogist is seen having a bit of fun with one gal and one of the ladies who jokingly demonstrates horns on top of his head with two extended fingers,

Later, as they land, we learn they were going to Roswell field where several aliens had reportedly been kept after perishing in 1947; but, mysterious orbs are filmed on the floor and a ghostly alien is seen through the magic of animation in the building's hallway which was described as being later constructed where the RAAF (Roswell) base hospital once stood. I always thought it was an infirmary ...

After a few more orbs are spotted and filmed, a frantic search begins for the ghost. Suddenly, it appears at the Roswell museum but is not seen. Shortly after, a cameo appearance by the owner of the Roswell museum - an authority figure and saucer celebrity. The excited group forms a circle around the imaginary ghost. Someone suggests they put down their electronic devices and give thanks to the ghost for spiritual and cultural guidance. They all bow their heads in prayer.

The reason I describe this in some detail is it is precisely what Jung spoke of in his early book. It seems some people are drawn to 'authority figures' who 'claim expertise' in such matters; when, in fact, no certification exists. Believers are routinely hypnotized; fully-agree with; and embrace the analysis of the experts; and even bring their young children to the self-appointed experts who may possess a degree in history (the study of primarily past human events) and psychology (the study of human behavior and interactions with other humans). Neither discipline is of human/alien interactions; yet, people accept that they are based upon the word of individuals who believe in star children, cosmic brotherhood, and other grand ideologies.

There is nothing new in this, as cosmic brotherhood has been preached at the Church of the UFO in years past; along with a need for a global currency and the warning - 'don't drink fluorinated water!' - espoused by experts who rode to Mars or the moon in UFOs. Some were even aliens themselves like the gorgeous Ray sisters, etc.

I will not pretend to understand the reason why people believe in such tripe. Maybe they believe they are actually the 'real scientists' as the 'experts' often tell them. Or, perhaps they just want to believe in such things and feel a certain kind of kinship with alien creatures, as opposed to a human-like God. One thing seems certain - they are this society's discontents and would be world improvers with a political agenda.

Thus, we have the exo-political movement where the high priests of saucerdom seek power and recognition in Washington D.C.; but the establishment must first disclose all it knows about UFO reality before federal funding for exo-political research efforts are made - which promise clean, renewable, alien energy which they 'assumptively' traverse the stars with and other things as well. But, things like eternal life, raising of the dead, walking on water, etc. were once called miracles.

After that the group went to visit the alleged UFO crash site and held a spooky candlelight seance at the hanger where the alien bodies were once reportedly kept.

But then again, these magical 'technologies may exist' somewhere out there - and used to be called 'miracles'. I am weary and retired - seeking no following or UFOlogical acclaim. In fact, I always avoided publicity - much preferring researching in privacy. Should the above cause you to re-think your UFOlogy and inspire you to assist others who are being bamboozled by the UFOOlogy of the past, then the 21st century-style approach may become synonymous with fact. End the six decades of ignorance - ask the right questions and step out of the shadows of 20th century inquiry.

Canadian Unknowns identified

Herb Taylor likes to look at various UFO reports and get my opinions of them. He recently sent me an e-mail where he mentioned multiple UFO reports visible in the province of Ontario, Canada on April 3, 2012. All the witnesses reported some sort of cloud and Herb wondered if a rocket launch had occurred at a Canadian base somewhere. I was intrigued and made a cursory check of the web and discovered that Herb had the right idea but the source did not come from Canada.



Venting rocket boosters

Some of the more interesting UFO reports come from various rocket launches and re-entering space debris. A commonly reported event involves rocket boosters venting fuel. The Falcon 9 rocket UFO visible from Australia in June 2010 and the Russian SLBM "Spiral" UFO visible from Norway in December 2009 are two recent examples. When I saw the basic descriptions in these reports, I agreed with Herb's assessment that it probably was a booster venting fuel. A check of the National UFO reporting center and MUFON revealed five more sightings (one from Virginia, two from West Virginia, one from Pennsylvania, one from a ship in Lake Huron) that were probably of the same event. The one from Altoona, Pennsylvania, even included a video. It clearly showed the UFO as described and it definitely looked like a venting booster rocket. So where did it come from?

The source

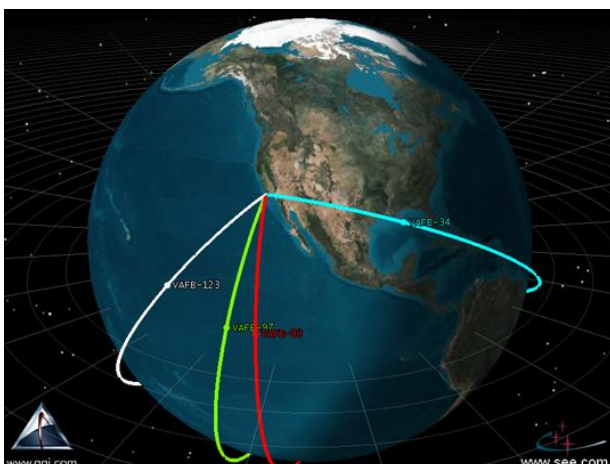
My first check was to see if the event had been observed and reported in the SEESAT-L archive. The list contains many experienced satellite observers and they usually don't miss anything. There was no mention of a fuel dump but Ted Molczan's posting on April 2, 2012 with the title, "NROL-25: search TLE; heads-up for N. American observers" caught my eye.¹ Ted described a rocket launch from Vandenberg that would pass over the northeast around 8:40 PM EDT. The strange thing about this event was that the rocket and its payload would be moving towards the northwest in a retrograde orbit. This National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) spy satellite was launched at 2312 UTC or 7:12 EDT, less than an hour and a half before these UFO sightings.

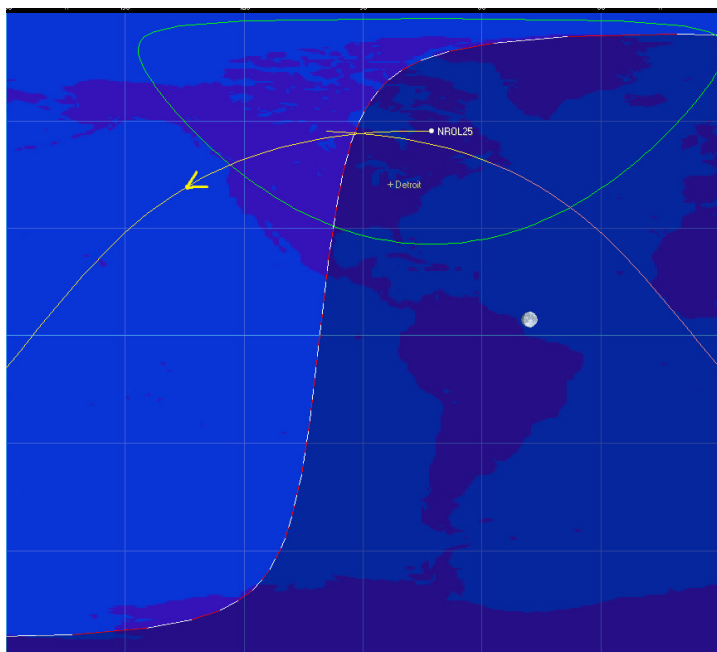
Orbit

The satellite had an unusual orbit with an inclination of 123 degrees (see white track to the left).² Polar orbits are near 90 degrees inclination and satellites launched in a prograde (towards the east) orbit are usually less than 45 degrees inclination. This peculiar orbit would make the satellite and rocket move towards the west, which is not what one would expect from something in orbit.

Locations

When I plotted all the locations on Google Earth, something struck me about them. All the reports came from observers between 77.5 and 82.5 west longitude. This seemed to be when the rocket and its venting fuel was visible and best illuminated by the sun as Ted Molczan had predicted. Using the TLEs provided by Molczan³, we see the following ground track for the Satellite (See image on next page). The booster rocket would have been close by as spacecraft separation was predicted to occur after the circularization burn around 0030 UTC (8:30 PM EDT). The blue circle on





the image at left is the area of visibility. It includes all the areas reporting observations.

Why is this an “unknown”?

Looking at the Canadian UFO database, we see that all the Ontario observations at 2045 were listed as “unknown/unidentified” (6) or “insufficient information” (4).⁴ I was disappointed when I read this. There were a lot of red flags associated with these sightings:

- 1) There were sightings of essentially the same object over a wide area.
- 2) While few directions were given in the summary sheet, I would not be surprised if most (if not all) of them mentioned the object going west/northwest and visible in the northern sky.
- 3) The descriptions were what one expect from a booster rocket venting fuel.

Some of the times were not correct but this is not unusual and may have been an error by the witness when they reported what they saw. The descriptions for the first three sightings seemed to be describing the same event and probably were an error in recording the time (i.e. somebody wanting to say 845PM might have typed in 1845).

2012	4	3	1845	Miller Lake	ON	nd	30	1	irregular	5	5	MUFON	u	tunnel shaped obj. opened into “morning glory”, heading W
2012	4	3	2011	Cambridge	ON	nd	20	2	sphere	4	5	Sightings.com	u	obj. like “foggy bubble” moving quickly in sky
2012	4	3	2015	Burlington	ON	nl		1	ps	3	4	Sightings.com	i	glow near horiz. fast, silent, ascend into sky, vanished
2012	4	3	2045	Cambridge	ON	nd	45	2	irregular	5	5	Sightings.com	u	luminescent tunnel shaped obj. moving in sky
2012	4	3	2045	Coniston	ON	nd		2	irregular	5	5	Sightings.com	u	triangular obj. going W expanded to parachute then tunnel
2012	4	3	2045	Massey	ON	nd		1	irregular	4	4	Sightings.com	i	glowing triangular cloud “floating along with the sunset”
2012	4	3	2045	Miller Lake	ON	nd	180	2	irregular	5	6	Sightings.com	u	Video: tunnel-shaped cloud like “Norway Spiral” sank below tree line
2012	4	3	2045	Miller lake	ON	nd	30	2	irregular	5	5	MUFON	u	tunnel-shaped obj. hanging in sky, slowly descended
2012	4	3	2045	Sudbury	ON	nd		3	irregular	4	4	Sightings.com	i	obj. like doughnut or funnel in sky
2012	4	3	2045	Sudbury	ON	nd		2	irregular	3	3	Sightings.com	i	luminescent tunnel shaped cloud

The only reason they could be listed as “unknown” was because the UFOs probably were reported going towards the west. Most people believe that satellites only travel northward, southward, or eastward. They are unaware that some satellites are put into retrograde orbits. This may have led the investigators to believe the observations eliminated the satellite/rocket body explanation. Still, it only took me a cursory check of the SEESAT-L archive to discover that the rocket launch was probably going to produce a display of this kind. The investigators could also have checked to see what rocket launches occurred prior to this. That would have produced a TLE that could point towards the source of the UFO. In my opinion, there really was no good reason to label this “unknown”. At least the list should have given it a “probable” if they bothered to even look closely.

How good is this database?

Skeptics are often criticized for making up ridiculous or inaccurate explanations for UFO sightings. Sometimes this is an accurate portrayal. I have made mistakes on explanations before and am the first to admit it. On the other hand, simply listing UFO reports in a database with little or no investigation is just as bad. This is especially true when the clues for identification are readily available. It took me less than 10 minutes of searching from the computer to produce the necessary information. Were these reports simply collected, tabulated, and then labeled after a cursory glance?

Looking at the rest of the database tends to demonstrate that the investigations appeared to be cursory at best. For instance, on the 13th of March, 2012, there were five reports of two lights in the sky⁵:

2012	3	13	Barrie	ON	nl		1	ps	3	3	Sightings.com	i	2 bright lights side by side
2012	3	13	Cambridge	ON	nl	3600	1	ps	3	5	Sightings.com	p	2 lights stationary in sky
2012	3	13	Kelowna	BC	nl		2	ps	3	3	UFOBC	i	2 bright lights in W
2012	3	13	London	ON	nl		1	ps	3	3	Sightings.com	i	2 lights side by side?
2012	3	13	Port Moody	BC	nl	3600	1	ps	3	4	Sightings.com	p	2 lights stationary in NW sky

Two of these were listed as “P” (Probable) while the other three are listed as “I” (Insufficient information). On that date, the planets Venus and Jupiter were together in the western sky after sunset. In my opinion, they all should be listed as “P”. I realize that some of these reports lack any real data (there are no times listed) but the answer should be that these were all “probably” Venus and Jupiter. Didn’t anybody bother to communicate with the witnesses to get the appropriate details for potential identification?

In another confusing entry, we see the following for two sightings on March 26th, 2012⁶:

2012	3	26	2345	Garden Hill	ON	nl	600	orange	1	ps	3	5	MUFON	u	light over airport, vanished
2012	3	26	2345	Garden Hill	ON	nl	600	orange	1	ps	3	5	MUFON	p	bright light rose over airfield, vanished

Both describe the exact same thing. A light appeared above an airport near Garden Hill, Ontario, which then vanished. Both have the same time, date, and location. For some reason, one is listed as “unknown” and the other is listed as “probable”. Which is it? If one is “probable”, then the other should also be “probable” as the witnesses apparently saw the same event!

Looking through the rest of the database, I did find one case that is of interest and, at first glance, is a “good unknown”⁷:

2012	9	7	2060	Airdrie	AB	nd		2	triangle	4	5	AUFOSG	u	obj. like "donut" w/lights	
2012	9	7	2065	Chestermere	AB	nd	180	yellow	1	irregular	4	5	AUFOSG	u	obj. w/lights underneath in shape of "Chrysler star"
2012	9	7	2110	Calgary	AB	nd		orange	1	triangle	5	5	AUFOSG	u	rounded triangle w/lights underneath

This is a multiple witness sighting, which appears to be of the same object over an area of about twenty miles. I wonder if it might have been aircraft or some other mundane source. If there were sufficient information, one might even be able to compute altitudes, flight paths, air speeds, etc. We really do not know but, based on what I have seen from the rest of the database, I am not that confident that the case was well investigated. It was another opportunity lost.

In my opinion, the authors of these reports (not just the Canadian UFO survey but others like MUFON and NUFORC) need to take the time to look up potential explanations for these cases instead of simply labeling the case as “unknown” because they can’t think of an answer. It makes it appear that they are simply “stamp collecting” UFO reports.

Critical review is necessary

This sort of thing seems to occur frequently in the field of UFOlogy. UFOlogists tend to do work that lacks quality. Instead of some sort of peer review being conducted by others in the field, it is simply applauded as a serious work in the history of UFOlogy. Nobody is critical of what was done unless it affects their own interpretation of a case. The same authors for this UFO report, wrote a book on Canadian UFOs. In that book, they stated that the Yukon mothership UFO case of 1996 was “the best documented and well-investigated Canadian UFO incident of the past several decades”.⁸ The case may have been “well documented” but it was not “well investigated”. Even though the investigator considered the potential for space debris re-entry, he did not go the extra mile to see if there was any such re-entry. Ted Molczan did this and discovered there was a re-entry that matched the observations of the witnesses. The lessons of previous re-entries being reported as UFOs were ignored/dismissed in favor of the more spectacular “UFO mothership” explanation. Had UFOlogists been critical of the case study, instead of simply accepting it because it reinforced their beliefs, they might have solved it long before Mr. Molczan.

Allan Hendry once noted that many UFO researchers do not bother to educate themselves with how various objects in the sky can be misinterpreted by witnesses,

*...for a field that is composed of individuals who profess to be intrigued by aerial anomalies, there is a widespread ignorance about even the most basic characteristics of sources like meteors, ad planes, and balloons. This ignorance is likely to be a deliberate suppression by each UFO researcher, for reasons that are reflected in the motives they demonstrate for their involvement with UFOs.*⁹

Before the internet, one might be forgiven for not being an expert on every possible source. Today, there are many experts available on each subject, who can be readily contacted or sourced with just the click of a mouse. Additionally, there is a wealth of data readily available to any researcher, who wants to look for potential explanations. Instead of using all this information/data, UFOlogists seem to be more content in allowing their own personal beliefs to affect their investigation/classification/promotion of cases. There also appears to be a strong desire among some UFOlogists that a case (especially one that appears in the media) is going to be classified as “unidentified” no matter what evidence is presented to indicate a more mundane source.

Some might find my commentary a bit harsh but I think it is important to criticize such flaws because that is the only way UFOlogists might improve their efforts. They should strive to make sure that, before they decided to declare a case as “unknown”, they make an honest/sincere effort to exhaust all possible solutions.

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STRING THEORY PART II

Last issue, I described my efforts on detecting model UFOs suspended by string using various digital cameras. This issue, I continued the testing using film cameras. Unfortunately, my old 35mm camera failed to work properly and only one section of the film was exposed. However, I was able to use the 6X6 format Holga camera and obtained some interesting results.

The Holga camera

The Holga camera is not the best camera for high resolution work. It is a cheap camera with a plastic lens. However, it does use large format film, which is a plus. This image demonstrates the resolution/focus of the Holga compared to the 35mm camera.



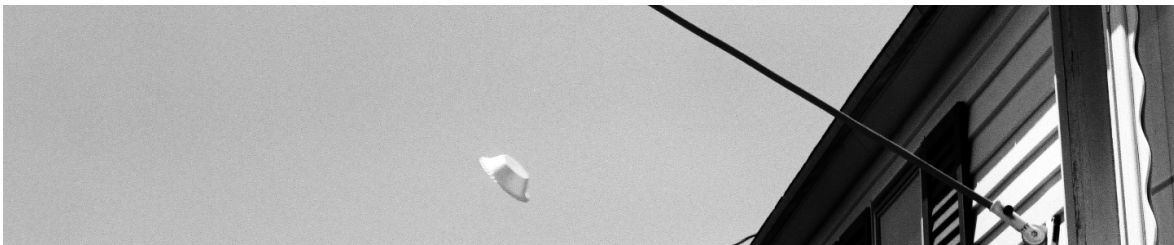
Both images were taken using Tmax 400 film. The 35mm tended to perform just a tad better than the Holga. Most of this had to do with the lens, which was a 50mm glass lens compared to the 60 mm plastic lens of the Holga (which is equivalent to a 35mm wide angle lens using 35mm film). Additionally, the Holga's design tends to create a softer focus the further one is from the center of the negative.

Results

I performed the test during daylight around noon local time on a sunny day using the same models and strings as before. After the film was exposed and developed, I had the negatives scanned. I then examined the scanned negatives with a computer and the original negatives using an 8X loupe.



The results were about as I expected. The Holga was not quite as capable as the digital cameras in resolving the threads. The black thread was obvious even when examining the negative with the naked eye. However, all the other threads were nearly or completely invisible. The bead wire did resolve itself with some adjustment of the levels in photoshop. The one 35mm photograph was of the bead wire (see below). It was not visible until I adjusted the levels on the scanned image. I was surprised that the white thread was not resolved by the Holga because in all the images taken with the digital cameras, under similar conditions, the thread could be seen. I can only assume this had something to do with the thread blending into the bright sky background.



Conclusions

In my opinion, the film cameras did not perform as well as the digital ones. Even the cell phone seemed to perform better. I was disappointed that the 35mm camera malfunctioned and did not get another chance to retest it before publishing this issue. To put the matter to rest, I intend to perform the test again with the 35mm in time for next issue.

DEBUNKING THE DEBUNKERS BY NOT GETTING THE FACTS RIGHT

A recent posting on the anomalist web page pointed me towards Steve Lantz's completely incorrect analysis of the skeptic's arguments regarding "The Phoenix lights". Lantz was the producer of Dr. Lynne Kitei's pseudodocumentary about the event. Let's examine how Lantz/Kitei incorrectly painted the skeptic's position on all of this by distorting facts.

Flares

Lantz begins by stating that flares are being used to explain the entire event by skeptics. This is not entirely accurate. Some skeptics did think that the entire Arizona event was documented by the videos shot at 10PM. That had a lot to do with the way the case was presented by the proponents. All of the videos shot at 10PM from Phoenix show flares being dropped by the Maryland Air National Guard. It is a documented fact that the Maryland ANG was operating on the Barry Goldwater Range that night around the time in question. They have stated they dropped their flares at high altitude prior to departing the range. Analysis of the videos indicates the lights altitude and location were consistent with this explanation. Any argument against flares producing these videos ignores the facts about the case. I also want to point out that flares do not explain the 8-8:45PM event and I have never stated this.

Hoax with Cessnas/helicopters

I originally thought this might have been the case early in 1997 but the more I examined the facts, the more I realized it was no hoax but a formation of aircraft on a standard flight to Tuscon. While some skeptics may have, at one point, suggested it might be a hoax, this argument has not been made for some time. In his argument, Lantz states:

...a young man came forward and claimed that he viewed the Phoenix Lights using a Celestron Telescope and saw they were a fleet of Cessnas flying in formation. Despite thousands of witness reports to the contrary, local media focused on this singular report. First of all, to suggest that you could follow a moving Cessna with a Telescope is ridiculous. I personally own a telescope and there is no way you could follow a moving aircraft and focus in on it, especially at night. Based on this statement alone I would seriously question anything this witness had to say.¹

The "young man" was Mitch Stanley. Lantz obviously did not want people to discover what Stanley actually reported by providing a source or chose not to research this very well. Stanley did NOT use a Celestron telescope but, instead, used a dobsonian reflector. To make the claim that it would be impossible for Mitch to follow planes with his telescopes is not understanding how well these telescopes perform. I have seen people manually track the space station with such instruments and I have been able to identify distant/high altitude planes with telescopes over the years. Lantz's inability to perform this feat indicates he has no skill with his telescope or the telescope he owns is some cheap narrow field instrument that just does not have the capabilities that Stanley's scope had.

Moving on to Lantz's other inaccurate statements:

Every pilot knows that penetrating Class-B airspace (a 30-mile protective veil that surrounds every major airport in the country) without a proper ATC clearance, would get them into serious trouble. There is no way a fleet of Cessnas could fly silently, even with the engines running at idle, and avoid radar detection.²

Once again, Lantz only tells only part of the story. Every pilot does know this and every pilot also knows that Class B airspace only extends up to an altitude of 10,000 feet. Any aircraft in formation above this altitude is NOT penetrating Class-B airspace. At such altitudes the distance of two miles or more would make it difficult to hear the engines of aircraft at cruising speed. A formation of aircraft enroute to Tuscon, which is what skeptics have actually been stating (not a hoax), would have flown above this controlled airspace along a standard air route. Not surprisingly, the UFO also followed a standard air route towards Tuscon. Lantz needs to educate himself and get his facts straight about this argument.

In his closing statement, Lantz states, "Obviously this guy concocted the entire story to get his mug on the six o'clock news!"³ The truth of the matter is that Stanley only appeared in a few papers in June of 1997 and never sought much publicity about his observations. He even attempted to help investigators identify the source by appearing at one of the town meetings in early 1997. Lantz, once again, fails to get the facts right and attempts to falsely misrepresent Stanley in order to make his argument sound more convincing.

Is this a religion?

Lantz's arguments are not an honest attempt to address true facts. He fudged the facts and arguments presented by skeptics in order to support his beliefs, which implies that the Phoenix Lights network is nothing more than a new age religious faith. One can not take such arguments seriously when it distorts the skeptic's argument and ignores actual facts about the case.

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701 club

CASE # 3427: February 10, 1955

The summary of this entry on the NICAP website (from Don Berliner's list) states:

Feb. 10, 1955; Bethesda, Maryland. 10:03 p.m. Witness: E.J. Stein, model maker at U.S. Navy ship design facility. One object, shaped like a small portion of the bottom of the Moon, with a radiant yellow color, hovered for 30 seconds. Its bottom changed to a funnel shape. Total sighting lasted 1.5-2 minutes.¹

The record card reads:

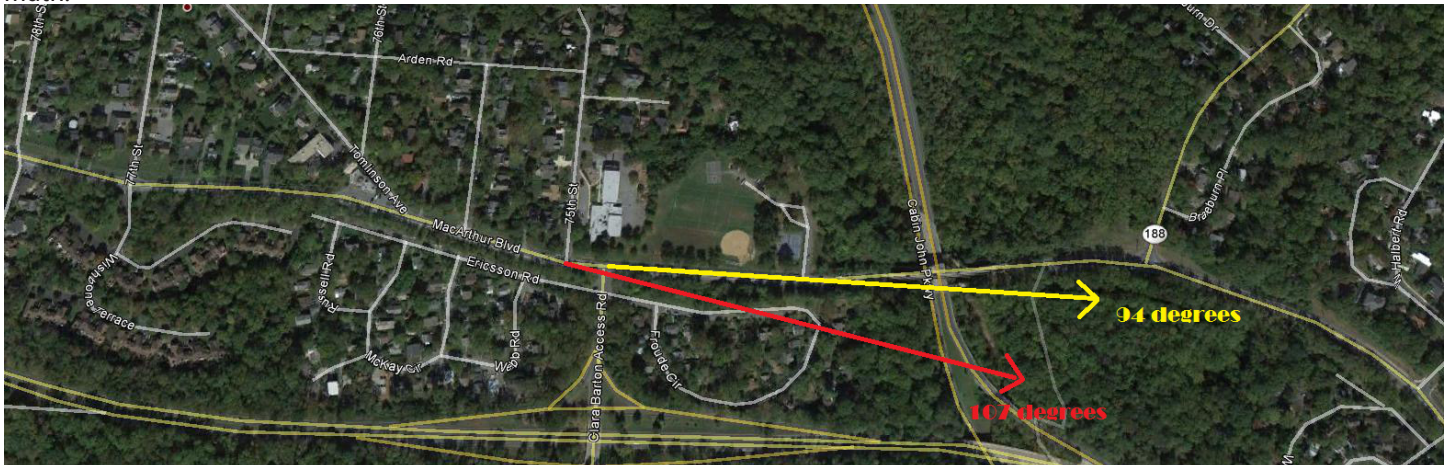
Saucer shaped illuminous object. Altitude of 150'. Seen while driving auto. Color of moon, "a yellowish radiant color," and had a flat top, with a spherical bottom. Remained stationary for 30 seconds, then the bottom portion appeared to assume a funnel type shape, obj. seemed to diminish (sic) in size. Dark cloudy night. No moon or stars visible.²

The witness told investigators that he was an "amateur astrologer" for approximately seven years until 1951. Assuming he meant "Amateur astronomer", it seems that it would be unlikely that he could mistake something in the sky for a UFO.

Location....Location....Location.....

Getting to the source would require some directions and locations of the observer. Fortunately, the observer gives us a pretty good location and direction of observation. According to the report, he was driving east on MacArthur Boulevard between 75th or 76th street and Cabin Johns Gardens entrance (The Clara Barton Access Rd below). The UFO then appeared to the right of the car and at an altitude of 150 feet. These are some pretty good locations and directions. I question the altitude estimate since the witness really can't make an estimate of this value without knowing the objects distance or size.

The road and location describes a heading along an azimuth of about 94 to 107 degrees depending on what section of MacArthur boulevard he was located when he saw the UFO. Therefore, the bearing of the UFO was somewhere to the right of 94 degrees azimuth.



Weather

The report states the witness said the conditions were dark and cloudy with no moon or stars visible. This appears to have been no other check to see what the weather was. A check of weather underground records for Bethesda and Silver Hill (15 miles to the ESE) indicated the following conditions:

Time	Bethesda sky conditions ³	Silver Hill sky conditions ⁴
1900	Clear	Scattered clouds
2000	Scattered clouds	Clear
2100	Mostly cloudy	Scattered clouds
2200	Overcast	Mostly cloudy
2300	Overcast	Overcast

What this indicates is the clouds were moving towards the east and sky conditions may not have been completely overcast towards the eastern sky for the observer.

Where was the moon?

I think the witness' description needs to be considered here. He stated the UFO looked like the bottom portion of the moon. So could the moon have been involved that night? A check with the US Naval Observatory website reveals that the moon rose at 2148 local time. At 2203, it was at azimuth 104 degrees and 2 degrees elevation. This lies in the direction the car was driving. If the moon were peaking out of the clouds briefly before disappearing again, it would appear to be an object that changed shape as he described.



Reasons for rejection

The only reason to reject the moon hypothesis is the belief that the sky was completely overcast to the horizon that night. Weather records for the area indicate the skies were not completely overcast prior to the event and there was a chance that sky might have some holes in the cloud cover to the east, which would allow the moon to appear briefly.

Why didn't Blue Book solve it?

They simply accepted the observation the sky was overcast that night and probably did not consider that it was possible for an "ex amateur astrologer" to be confused by the moon. Other than the two page report, there seems to have been little follow-up investigation. Hynek apparently was not consulted.

Solved?

While we can't positively state the moon was the source based on the limited information we have, the possibility that moon was involved is hard to ignore. I would change this from "unidentified" to "probably the moon".

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March 22-23, 1957

The UFO evidence document summarizes this case in its chronology as:

*March 23, 1957--Long Beach, California. Four UFOs tracked on CAA radar, widespread visual sightings. [VIII]*¹

Section VIII has a much longer version of events. This description is highlighted by an anonymous report for a CAA radar operator, who described tracking a radar contact:

"At 2350 (11:50 p.m.) I was watching the radar scope, when I noticed a target about 15 miles northwest and moving northwest. At first I thought it was a jet, then I noticed it was moving much faster than anything I had ever seen on the scope. About 40 miles northwest it came to an abrupt stop and reversed course, all within a period of about three seconds. It then traveled back along its course for about 20 miles, reversed course again and disappeared off the scope at 50 miles (our radar reaches out only 50 miles).

"Approximately 5 minutes later 2 more targets appeared and disappeared off the scope in the same direction as the first; and these we had time to clock. They traveled 20 miles in 30 seconds which figures out to 3600 mph. A minute or so later a fourth target appeared in the same area as the other 3, 10 or 15 miles northwest, and went off the scope to the northwest at 3600 mph.

*"Our radar does not give height of aircraft so I couldn't give you the height, however they had to be about 10,000 feet or lower because our radar's maximum height range is about 10,000 feet."*²

In addition to the radar contacts, there were numerous visual sightings in the Pasadena area. Most of these were reported between 11PM and midnight PST. One sighting was singled out in the NICAP document:

Mrs. Robert Beaudoin, wife of an Oxnard AFB Captain, telephoned the base tower to report sighting the UFO. It was described as a large silent object, flashing a brilliant red light, and maneuvering above the Santa Rosa Valley

*An F-89 interceptor attempted to locate the object, but the Air Force denied it was able to make contact, although at the same time witnesses on the ground could see the UFO plainly near one of the Oxnard runways.*³

The case seems to have a pretty full plate but was NICAP accurate?

Media reports

Flying Saucer Reported, But Not Located

Unidentified flying objects were reported hovering over the Camarillo - Santa Rosa Valley area for more than an hour last night, the sheriff's office reported.

The initial report came from Mrs. Robert Beaudoin of Santa Rosa Valley, who notified the Oxnard Air Force Base.

An Air Force plane, seeking another unidentified object which turned out to be an airplane, was ordered to check the area.

"They couldn't see anything," Col. Edwin P. Carey Jr., base commander, said.

There was a report that the Air Force radar station at Santa Rosa Island had picked up the unidentified objects on its screen. "That's not true," Col. Carey said.

Reports Checked

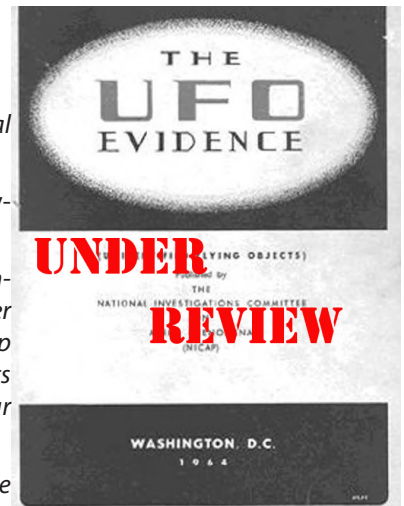
Later the 27th Air Division had reports of unidentified flying objects from its Ground Observer Corps personnel. "The Navy had a plane up, but they didn't see anything either," Col. Carey said.

The 27th Air Division will investigate the reports, Col. Carey said.

Deputy Richard McHenry of the sheriff's office said that he sighted an object at about 12:22 a.m. and saw it until 1:37 a.m. Deputy McHenry was at the west end of the Air Force Base when he first saw the object.

Mrs. Beaudoin said she and Carol Litten, 17, a neighbor saw objects "to the northeast," from about 11:15 until after 1 o'clock. "It was no optical illusion," Mrs. Beaudoin said. The objects, shaped "like a tear drop tipped sideways," went up and down, from one side to the other and halted sometimes, she said.

They were red and then blue-green depending on the angle, Mrs. Beaudoin said. "They came closer and then went farther away," she said.



I did a check of the newspaper archive and discovered the Oxnard Press-Courier of March 23rd described the events on the night of the 22/23rd (see right).⁴ They also highlighted the report of Mrs. Beaudoin and she was quoted as stating that the UFO was changing colors and that it moved towards them and then receded. There really wasn't much else in the way of media coverage outside of the local area. The national media seems to have missed the event but NICAP felt the case was significant because of their anonymous radar operator reporting exotic speeds of 3600 mph.

Missing in this article were any mention of the sightings in Pasadena. A check of Blue Book's documentation revealed that those events happened the following evening. For some reason, NICAP chose to make it appear that all the events happened on the same night. The radar and Beaudoin sightings were on the evening of the 22/23rd. The Pasadena sightings occurred on the night of the 23rd/24th. Is it possible that the media coverage of the Beaudoin sightings might have influenced people to go out looking for UFOs the following night?

Is this a Radar-Visual?

NICAP tries to paint this as a "radar-visual" sighting. The problem with this is NICAP had only one piece of information and chose to accept it as factual. In the Blue Book file, the radar sighting is described very much like the NICAP document states. However, a key bit of information is provided that NICAP's source apparently left out (or NICAP chose not to tell anyone about). According to the message concerning the incident:

*Possible malfunction of radar equipment. Since no visual sightings were reported, and at 0807Z the station's radar lost it's high voltage and went off.*⁵

The power supply failed just 17 minutes after the radar began to show these bizarre maneuvers. Could it have been simply that as the power supply became erratic prior to its failure and produce erratic returns? This seems to be a reasonable answer to the strange radar contact that no aircraft in the area saw.

Meanwhile, the Beaudoin sighting file has the following comment:

The 669th Aircraft Control and Warning squadron located on Santa Rosa Island was contacted and the controller

on duty the night of 22/23 Mar furnished the following information PD Station operative during the entire period of sighting PD Only one paint was noted that night CMM five hours before the sighting was reported PD⁶

This had been reported in the media but, not surprisingly, was ignored by NICAP in favor of the more spectacular report. If the advanced air search radar at Santa Rosa, which was closer than the CAA radar, did not paint a target, then it brings into question the contacts reported by the radar operator. Based on this information, one can not link the visual with the radar contact. This was not a radar-visual case.

The Beaudoin sighting

This sighting received some significant media coverage and was published in the local press the next day. Missing from the NICAP document are some pertinent facts that were uncovered by the USAF. The 4602nd AISS investigated the case thoroughly and provided a detailed report of what exactly happened that night.⁷

Mrs. Beaudoin was the wife of an AF captain, who was not present because he was away on temporary duty assignment. She had answered a phone call late that night around 11:15PM. While Mrs. Beaudoin was on the phone, she looked out the window and saw the UFO. She then called Oxnard AFB to report the UFO to an officer she knew. Lt. Ott, who answered her call, joked with her a bit and suggested she was just seeing a temperature inversion of some kind. When Mrs. Beaudoin called back five minutes later to state the UFO was joined by two red lights, Ott called the radar site to see if they had any targets. According to him the officer in charge said they had a target in the area. As a result, Lt. Ott called Mrs. Beaudoin back. Because she was alone at home, she became worried/frightened and requested that he call the local police to see if they could come out to her home.

The call resulted in members of the Sheriff's office and highway patrol arriving at the Beaudoin home. Meanwhile, Ott reports that somebody had scrambled two jets to investigate. Efforts were made to coordinate observation from the ground in order for the jets to intercept the UFO. These attempts were unsuccessful. The jets could not locate the UFO and returned to base when they ran low on fuel. The Navy also sent up two aircraft but were no more successful than the AF. They couldn't seem to see the UFO that Beaudoin and the police officers apparently saw. The entire exercise was essentially over by 0300 local time. Mrs. Beaudoin stated she continued to watch until 0330.

When the 4602nd AISS talked to the witnesses, it became clear what was seen that night. Mrs. Beaudoin had observed an object low (10 degrees) in the northeast sky that was green and brighter than the surrounding stars. It was joined by two red lights. While the UFO was reported to have been moving very quickly, the actual position did not really change. It appeared to just jump back and forth over a small area of the sky. Mrs. Beaudoin also stated that the UFO appeared to pulse/throb. The highway patrol reported they found a barn nearby, which had red lights on top of it. When they arrived at Mrs. Beaudoin's, they stated they saw nothing unusual except stars. The Sheriff's also stated they only saw stars.

The 4602nd contacted an astronomer at San Bernardino Valley college. He told them that Arcturus was high in the northeast and that the stars Castor and Pollux were visible low in the northeast sky as well. While Arcturus was in the northeast sky as the astronomer stated, the stars Castor and Pollux were low in the west. Perhaps the investigating officer misunderstood the astronomer. There is one page in the file that came from Dr. Hynek. He pointed out the problem with Castor and Pollux and noted that a better candidate for the UFO was the bright star Vega, which was low in the northeast at the start of the sighting. The red lights on the barn were apparently reflecting off some nearby wires adding to the confusion.

Lt. Ott apparently had mistook the description of a radar contact in the area. When interviewed, the officer in charge restated that he had only one contact that evening and it was five hours prior to this. Perhaps he mentioned this to Lt. Ott, who thought he meant the contact was still there.

Apparently, NICAP could not get any of the police officers or Mrs. Beaudoin to talk to them. They blamed the USAF for intimidating



The star Vega appears over the treetops in this image. It is one of the brightest stars in the night sky.

the witnesses not to talk to NICAP. Is this true or did NICAP choose not to pursue the case closely?

The Pasadena sightings

The final part of The UFO evidence entry has to do with widespread sightings in the Pasadena area the following night. There is little information provided other than between 10 PM and midnight people were making UFO reports to the local police. Additionally, several people in the GOC saw the UFO. The Blue Book file is limited, with only a single teletype describing some of the observations. No azimuths or elevations are given. It is only stated that the object disappeared in the west after fourteen minutes of observation. It was described as round and bright red with white flashes of light shooting off of it.

The NICAP web site does not provide any additional information other than an article that appeared in the March 26th Pasadena Independent. This seems to be one of the primary sources NICAP relied upon in writing their summary of the case. Again, the article lacks any specific details that can be used to evaluate the case. About the only thing we get is a description that the object was "orange-red" and had a bright white light flashing.

Blue Book classified this as a possible aircraft exhaust glow. I think this is unlikely as the event supposedly lasted for fourteen minutes or longer. If we are to believe NICAP that all the observations during the two hour period were of the same object, we are looking at a potential astronomical explanation. Is it any surprise that the star Sirius set in the WSW around 11:45 PM and Betelgeuse set around midnight? These seem to be potential candidates for this UFO. Betelgeuse is orange-red but, when low in the sky, Sirius can give the appearances of being red as it scintillates. Either are bright enough to be seen low in the sky and can be described in the way mentioned in the telex (see right).⁸

Evaluating the "evidence"

This case does not belong in the UFO evidence. All of the events are either explained or have plausible explanations offered for them.

NICAP did not even bother to gather additional information beyond looking at newspapers and relying upon the words of a single radar operator, who did not tell NICAP (or NICAP withheld this fact) that the radar had failed shortly after he saw all these radar contacts. How can one really consider this "evidence" when it is all anecdotal? Where were the records of NICAP's "investigations" to these many sightings that occurred in Pasadena? The UFO evidence makes no mention of any real data gathered from any interviews, which implies they did not perform any investigation at all or found nothing of importance. Once again, we discover that NICAP's evidence is far from compelling. They created a mountain from a molehill.

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WPH125JBE002
PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ
DE RJWPJB 2E
P 240726Z
FM COMDR 669 ACWRON POMHUE CALIF
TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLORADO
RJWPJB/COMDR 27 ADIV DEF NORTON AFB CALIF
RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECH INTELL CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON OHIO
RJEPHQ/DIRECTOR OF INTELL HQTRS USAF 25 D C
BT
UNCLAS 669TH OPS 092-Y PD 1. ROUND B. GREAPFRUIT. C. BRIGHT RED D. NONE
E. N/A F. WHITE FLASHES SHOOTING OUT G. NONE H. NONE 1. NONE 2. OBJECT
SIGHTED BY GOC PERSONAL ON DUTY. B. ESTIMATED FOUR TO FIVE THOUSAND
FEET. RANGE AND AZIMUTH UNKNOWN C. ESTIMATED FOUR TO FIVE THOUSAND
FEET. RANGE UNKNOWN. DISAPPEARED WEST OF PASADENA CALIF. D. HEADING ON
A DIRECT WESTWARD COURSE. E. RED LIGHT FADED FROM SIGHT. F.
FOURTEEN MINUTE. 3. A. GROUND VISUAL. B. BINOCULARS, ETC. C. N/A
4. A. 24 MARCH 57 0726Z. B. NIGHT 5. PASADENA, CALIF. 6. T/SGT DEWY
CROW USAF 831 GREVELIA, PASADENA, CALIF. [REDACTED]
PL, LOS ANGELES, CALIF. [REDACTED] ARCADIA CALIF. [REDACTED]
PAGE TWO RJWPJB 2E
[REDACTED] YORKSHIRE RD. PASADENA, CALIF. [REDACTED] (WIFE OF [REDACTED])
[REDACTED] MRS [REDACTED] STREET PASADENA, CALIF. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] E. WASHINGTON. [REDACTED] MAPLE STREET. PASADENA,
CALIF. [REDACTED] FIFTY TO SEVENTYFIVE
VISUALS WERE REPORTED TO LT. MANN OF PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT
MR. [REDACTED] STREET PASADENA CALIF. RELIABILITY OF
OF ALL THE ABOVE MENTIONED OBSERVERS IS VERY GOOD. T/SGT JOHNSON
PASADENA FILTER CENTER. 7. CLEAR WINDS CALM. B. SURFACE 270/05KTS
6,000 345/05KTS 10,000 345/ 15KTS 16,000 005/40KTS 20,000 325/45
30,000 315/50 50,000 285/60 80,000 UNK. C. NONE D. 15 PLUS E. NONE F. N
NONE G. NONE H. NONE 10. LIGHT PLANE PASSED UNDER OBJECT. 11. 1 LT.
EDWARD R. MARTIN, INTERCEPT CONTROLLER. POSSIBLE EXHAUST GLOW OF
PASSING AIRCRAFT. 12. NONE.
BT
24/1245Z MAR RJWPJB

UFOs on the tube

The world's strangest UFO stories - Roswell: The truth

The show, as expected, began with the UFOlogist version of events for the "crash". It then transitioned into a scene with Stanton Friedman, seated in a chair out in the middle of a field, making the claim that the Roswell event was "one of the biggest stories of the millennium". He pointed out that his interviews with Jesse Marcel Sr. were before any versions of the story had made out to the public. The implication was that in those interviews, Marcel was not influenced by others. The narrator sarcastically noted that Friedman has developed the ability to understand what aliens think, when Friedman declared that the aliens were interested in our advances in technology.

The program sequed to Jesse Marcel Jr., who declared that the alien spaceship crash was the simplest explanation for the debris he saw. Of course, he never actually saw any aliens himself. As he held up his replica I-beam, the show commented that both Marcel's collaborated to create it but this is not correct since Marcel Sr. denied seeing I-beams. I found the clips of Marcel Jr. standing on the street selling/signing souvenirs a bit disturbing. Is he that starved for cash or attention?

The parade of alien body witnesses included Glenn Dennis and Gerald Anderson. Both have long since been shown to be "less than reliable". The other individuals, who appeared, were second hand witnesses. They knew somebody, who said they saw alien bodies. While the show was quick to point out they all gave the same description of the aliens, it ignored the fact that the descriptions of aliens had been established by popular television shows and movies long before their interviews were recorded.

The show gave the skeptics their chance by interviewing Dave Thomas, who made several interesting comments. The biggest one is *"They didn't switch the debris. What's in the pictures is what you get."* As hard as UFOlogists have tried to say there was a switch of debris, they continue to ignore the fact that Marcel stated in the movie, "UFOs are real" that some of the debris was seen by the press.

Stanton Friedman argued against MOGUL by stating the materials used were not classified. He seemed to miss the point that unwanted publicity regarding the recovery of the debris might result in some questions about the balloon's purpose, which was classified. If there was concern about MOGUL in the Roswell incident, it had to do with Operational Security (OPSEC) and not the specific debris found.

Tom Carey and Don Schmitt were able to get in on the UFO fun by showing on a chalkboard (I guess they could not afford fancy computer graphics) the flight path and crash locations for the UFO (They have three sites!). Stanton Friedman responded that there locations do not agree with the "data". He is wrong. The "data" is nothing more than decades old stories and not established facts. None of them seem to agree on anything beyond the Foster Ranch location.

The alien autopsy footage was shown with Bob Kiviat making the claim that "if it was faked, it was faked by a master". We now know that it was faked and Kiviat had been duped. I felt the program misrepresented the USAF 1997 report as they did not explain fully why it was released. The report was basically a follow-up put together by McAndrew and Bernard Gildenberg based on items their 1994 research uncovered. As a final note, the program gave a bit of air time to Nick Redfern. He suggested it might have been a German aircraft or V-2 rocket with monkeys.

At the end of the program, Dave Thomas stated, *"The only thing that would convince Stanton Friedman is if Aliens landed on the White House lawn, and said they did not do Roswell"*. Somehow, I would think Mr. Friedman still would not believe the aliens. After all, they have been part of the Cosmic Watergate as well!

Buy it, borrow it, or bin it?

Project Blue Book Exposed - Kevin Randle

While I tend to enjoy Randle's books that do not involve Roswell, I found this work more less than compelling. It was more of an effort to tar and feather the USAF than an honest effort to evaluate Blue Book.

Randle seems to think that the only time the USAF tried to really investigate UFOs was during the Ruppelt era. After that, it was just an effort to explain a case away at any cost. I am curious, if this were the case, why there were any "unidentifieds" at all after Ruppelt's departure. Why not explain them all away as "swamp gas"? As SUNlite readers know, there are quite a few "unidentifieds" on the 701 list that could have been easily explained but were not! Blue Book just never had the resources to investigate UFOs properly.

I could go into every case that Randle bothered to write about but I will just mention the Chiles-Whitted case in this limited space. In order to eliminate the meteor explanation, he stated that meteors never move upward. I can produce many photographs of meteors that did move in an upward trajectory and there have been earth grazing meteors that did actually move upward in altitude! In another attempt to minimize how witnesses reported the Zond IV re-entry, he tried to give the impression that the Zond IV event involved re-entering space debris and an actual "unknown". His implication was that some of the witnesses saw a UFO like Chiles-Whitted and not space debris. He ignored the possibility that witnesses can describe the same event differently. He then tries to convince the reader that these experienced pilots could never mistake a meteor for an alien spaceship! I can produce cases from UFO sources, where the same mistake has been made by "experienced" pilots.

Randle states that the files indicate that "Flying saucers" (not UFOs) exist and that they are ET in origin. All these files are on-line and I have yet to see any case file that can be considered proof of alien visitation. Perhaps, I am not wearing my "flying saucer goggles" when I read them. Borrow this book. Don't buy it.